Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: April – June 2018 Issue date: 22.03.18

The forecast presented here is for April and the average of the April-May-June period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for April will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2 April 2018.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For April, below-average precipitation is more likely than above-average precipitation. For April-May-June as a whole, above-average precipitation is slightly more likely than below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for April-May-June will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 15% and 20% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is around 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

As discussed in the temperature section, UK weather patterns in April are likely to continue to be influenced by the lingering effects of the sudden stratospheric warming (SSW) that occurred in February. Consistent with this, the Met Office long-range prediction system, and systems from other prediction centres around the world, shows an increased likelihood of weather patterns that reduce the normal progress of moist Atlantic air across the UK during April. This leads to a moderately increased chance of drier-than-normal conditions (see left-hand graph of figure P2).

For April-May-June, the Met Office long-range prediction system, along with systems from other prediction centres, shows very little tendency towards any given type of weather pattern over the UK. As a result, the chances of above- and below-average precipitation are close to normal, with only a small shift in probabilities towards wetter-than-average conditions (see right-hand graph of figure P2).

Fig P1

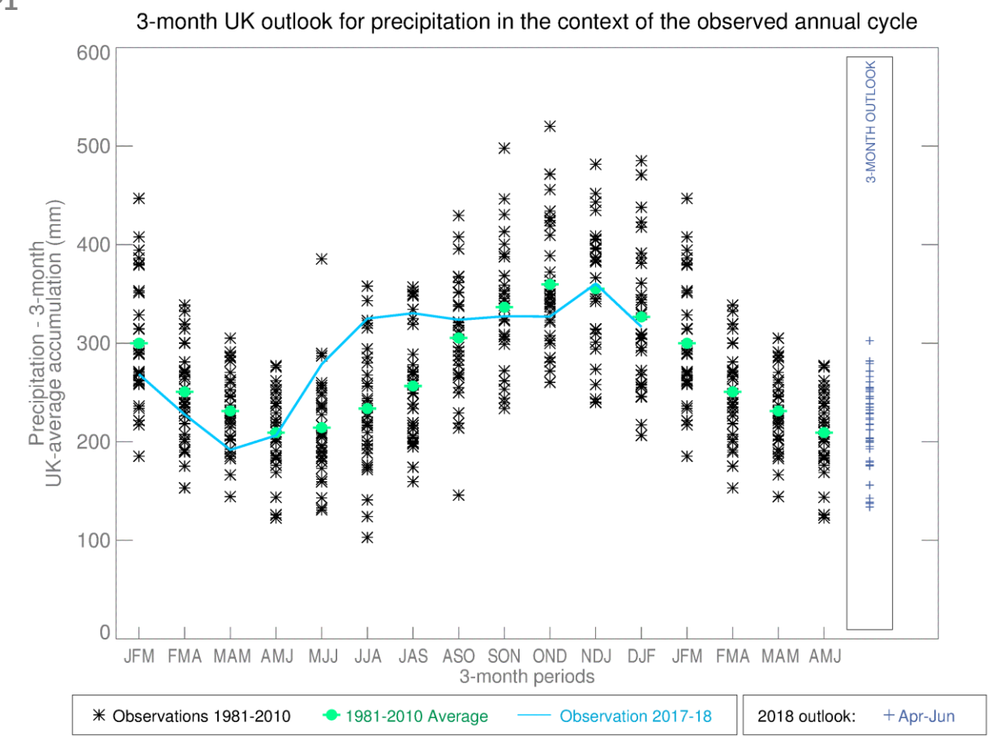


Fig P2

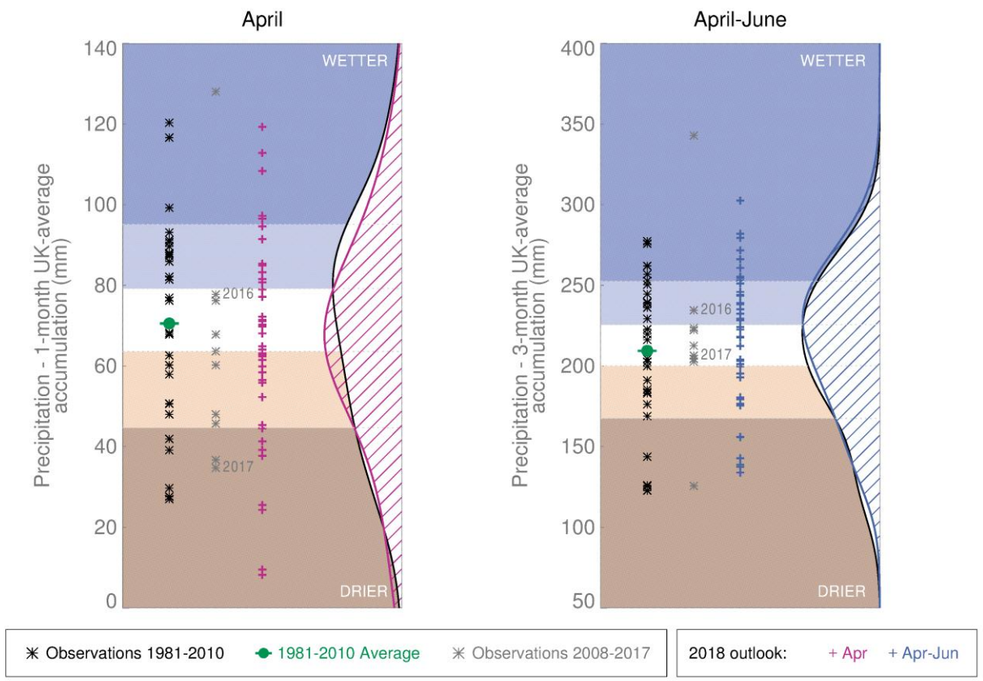
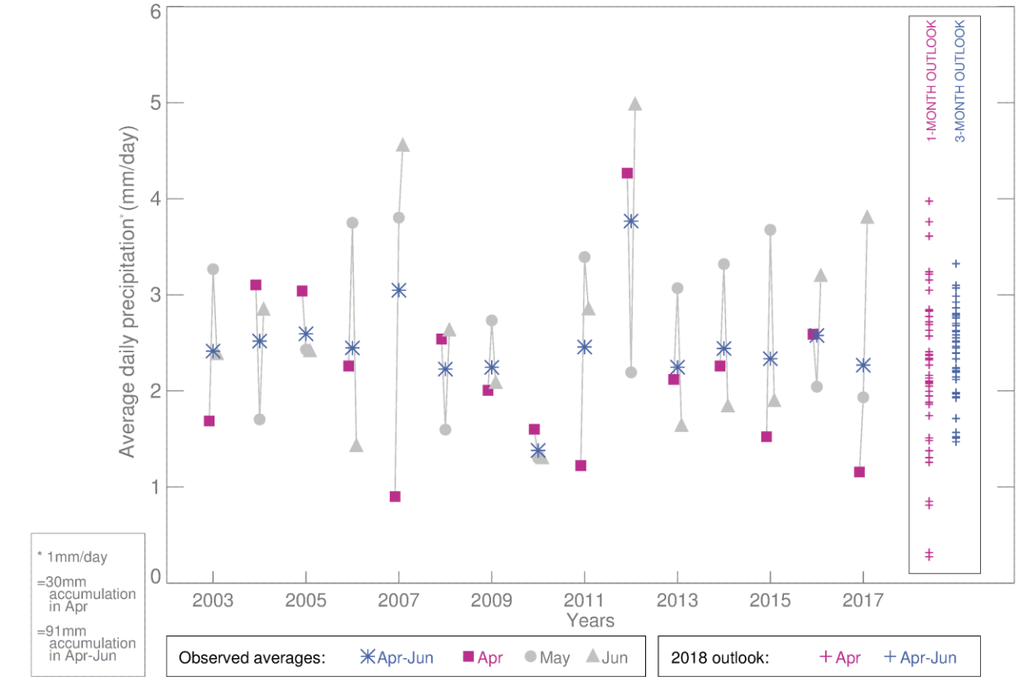


Fig P3


1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability
Average daily precipitation (mm/day)
1-MONTH OUTLOOK
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
* 1mm/day
=30mm accumulation in Apr
=91mm accumulation in Apr-Jun
Years
Observed averages: Apr-Jun Apr May Jun
2018 outlook: + Apr + Apr-Jun

This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.

The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.